

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2068

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UR, ME

SUBJ: ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: STATE 168671

1. IN CALL ON PYRLIN, DEPUTY CHIEF MFA NEAR EAST DIV.
SEPTEMBER 14, POL COUNS AND EMBOFF RAISED MATTER OF
ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW ALONG LINES OUTLINED REFTTEL,
NOTING REPORTS THAT ARAFAT HAD MET IN MOSCOW WITH
TYAZHELNIKOV OF KOMSOMOL AND POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER
PONOMAREV. (LATTER MEETING IN FACT WAS MERELY RUMORED
IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, BUT PYRLIN NODDED AND THUS
IMPLICITLY CONFIRMED BOTH MEETINGS.)

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2. PYRLIN SAID THAT ARAFAT WAS INVITED IN CONNECTION WITH UNIVERSITY GAMES AND TALKED TO TYAZHELNIKOV ONLY ABOUT YOUTH AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN IN HIS MEETING WITH "OTHERS" (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING PONOMAREV AND PYRLIN) TO DISCUSS IN GREAT DETAIL PALESTINIAN MATTERS AND TO RAISE QUESTION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY, INCLUDING EVIDENCE WHICH WE PROVIDED TO PYRLIN IN APRIL CONCERNING FATAH AND PLO INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORIST ACTS. ACCORDING TO PYRLIN, ARAFAT DENIED CATEGORICALLY ANY AND ALL PLO INVOLVEMENT WITH BLACK SEPTEMBER ORGANIZATION OR OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS.

3. PYRLIN WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHOLE PALESTINIAN SITUATION IS VERY COMPLEX, NOTING THAT THERE ARE NOW 81 DIFFERENT PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS. MOREOVER HE SAID SOVIET GOVT. HAS NEW INFORMATION THAT SMALL GROUPS OF PALESTINIANS UNAFFILIATED WITH PLO OR OTHER RECOGNIZED PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TERRORIST ACTIVITY. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE "PERSONALLY" BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE TIES BETWEEN SOME OF THE TERRORISTS ("INDEPENDENT PALESTINIANS") AND LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, BUT SO FAR THIS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED.

4. ALTHOUGH PYRLIN SAID HE HAD STUDIED OUR EVIDENCE CAREFULLY, HE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS ARE IMPRESSED BY ARAFAT'S CATEGORIC DENIALS OF INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM AND ASSERTIONS THAT FATAH AND PLO PURSUE THEIR AIMS ONLY BY POLITICAL MEANS. HE ALSO GAVE IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE RELIEVED TO BE ABLE TO BLAME TERRORISM ON QADHAFFI.
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